



south carolina  
**STATE LIBRARY**

*More Monthly Newsletter*

Vol. 57 No. 8, August 2022

## A Note From Our Director

The new school year is right around the corner! As teachers, students, and caregivers gear up to start the next year, I want to remind you of the wide array of educational resources the South Carolina State Library provides.

Discus, [www.discus.org](http://www.discus.org), has over 70 electronic resources for the K-12 community: educators, librarians, students, caregivers, and homeschool families. Discus provides access to high-quality, advertisement-free resources aligned to the South Carolina Standards and ready to use. Users may access Discus resources in any location or learning environment.

Digital tools for educators include lesson plans, quizzes, activities, and various types of study materials. Discus is compatible with several learning management systems: Canvas, Schoology, Blackboard, and Google Classroom. This year we added several new resources to our Discus library.

PebbleGo by Capstone includes [PebbleGo Next Biographies](#) and [PebbleGo Animals](#); both modules are geared for K-5 students and encourage learning more about animals and famous people. [African American History](#) explores more than 500 years of African-American history and culture. The resource presents information in a vibrant and engaging format for students and educators.

We purchased several [Gale eBooks](#) modules, including Drama, Novels, Short Stories, and Poetry for Students. These resources provide information to deepen knowledge of the most studied works from various time periods, nations, and cultures. [Teaching Books](#) offers supplementary information about authors and often includes first-person interviews with the authors exploring their subjects and the writing process.

If a student gets stuck or needs extra assistance, they can use [Tutor.com](http://Tutor.com) and speak with a live tutor one-to-one. Tutors cover various topics, including foreign language, math, science, etc. Tutor.com even includes a writing drop-off center for students to have tutors review writing assignments.

We are proud of our South Carolina students and want to provide them with resources that aid them in their educational journey. South Carolinians have access to the resources needed to be successful in school and prepare them for their future endeavors.

Word of mouth is often the best advertisement – please share Discus information broadly.



Enjoy the new school year!

All the best,

Leesa M. Aiken  
South Carolina State Library Director



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### **Fighting for #FReadom: 8/17/2022**

Turn your concern over book and materials challenges into constructive action by equipping yourself with knowledge, best practices, and preparation.

[READ MORE](#)

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### **Building and Sustaining Community Partnerships: 8/24/2022**

Learn to forge partnerships for stronger community-led libraries by creating partnerships built on solid relationships, mutual respect, and shared goals.

[READ MORE](#)

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### **Time to Think: The Importance of Focus: 8/31/2022**

Reduce distractions by creating an environment conducive to productivity and implementing techniques to suppress distractions and interruptions.

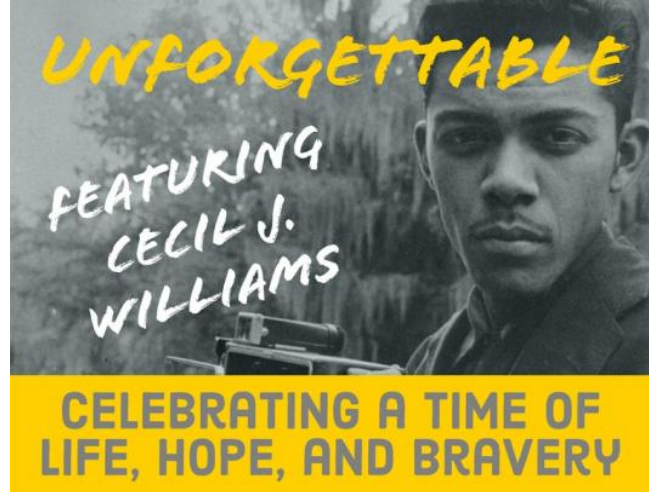
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## **An Unforgettable Evening**

Explore the work of acclaimed photographer Cecil Williams as he shares the inspiration for his book, *Unforgettable: 1950-1970: Celebrating a Time of Life, Hope and Bravery*, and see the traveling display containing 40 photos from his collection. Mr. Williams hosts [an author talk at](#)

[Newberry Library on August 18](#). Tour the exhibit and enjoy a meet and greet before the presentation; get a rare glimpse of events, portraits, and moments of significant social change in South Carolina during the 1950s and 1960s. This exhibit and program are made possible with LSTA funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by the SC State Library and through the generosity of Cecil Williams.



## Youth Services News

Youth programming is in full swing, and so is this month's event calendar. [On August 17](#), learn to create interactive storytimes; consider criteria for selecting age-appropriate read-aloud titles; explore titles that invite children to move, talk, sing, and play; and consider ways to extend book-sharing experiences through multisensory play and material exploration. [Refresh storyline skills and prepare for fall programming](#) at 10:00 a.m. on August 26; we come together to share tips, tricks, and the newest picture books. The [Bring your Own Book Club](#) meets on August 24. This month's theme is graphic novels for kids and teens.



## Happy Birthday, Smokey!

We celebrated Smokey Bear Day this week. Libraries used this Smokey Bear doll to promote the Summer Reading Club in the 1950s. The Ad Council and Forest Service commissioned artist Albert Staehle to create the fictional character to help prevent forest fires. Smokey's popularity, and the effort to protect America's land, remain strong. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about South Carolina forests and get an up close and personal look at Smokey Bear.

## Beat the Deadline

A few days remain to apply for two open opportunities to join our team. Apply to become our [Digital Media Designer](#); create engaging social media posts and campaigns to market our programs and services. Our finance team needs a [procurement officer](#) to oversee the purchase, receipt of goods/services, and materials inventory. Both positions offer state benefits, 15



days annual leave, 15 days sick leave, and 13 paid holidays. The application deadline is August 14, 2022.

# We're Hiring



## Stop Procrastinating

Don't wait until the end of the year to nominate your agency's best publication for a 2022 Notable State Documents Award; [submit nominations now](#). The Notable State Documents Awards Program recognizes outstanding state publications produced during the calendar year. Categories include physical or digital monographs (individual publications), serials, and websites. [Visit the Notable State Documents Awards Program site](#) for additional information.



## Create Winning Grant Proposals

Private foundations, corporations, and other funders can provide grants for nonprofit organizations and their programs and projects. But once you find a funder, how do you apply? We'll cover the basics of writing a proposal to fund your project. What are the key components of a proposal? What do funders want to know about your project? Learn the basics of writing a proposal and what to do after you win a grant. [Register to join us](#) at 10:30 a.m. on August 25.

## Back by Popular Demand

The six-week [basic American sign language class](#) begins on September 20. This hands-on series teaches how to improve your service to deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. We cover basic information about American Sign Language and Deaf Culture and specific vocabulary for the library setting. Each session builds on the proceeding to reinforce knowledge and expand participants' communication skills.



with members of the Deaf community. Sessions are recorded and available for three months for those who cannot attend live.

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